



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



New
England



Crop Progress & Condition

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Week ending May 10, 2015

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by the Northeastern Regional Field Office of NASS

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Excellent week for field work: New England averaged 6.5 days suitable for field work last week.

New England experienced sunny, warm and dry weather last week. Average weekly temperatures ranged from three to sixteen degrees above normal. Weekly precipitation ranged from 0.0 to 0.46 inches in the region. Several days last week a Red Flag Warning was issued by the National Weather Service for all of Maine, indicating that critical fire danger was evident due to strong winds and low humidity. However, some areas experienced scattered thunderstorms towards the end of the week. Farmers in the region continued spreading manure and tilling, preparing the fields for planting. In some areas, farmers were able to start planting corn, sweet corn, and potatoes. Grass growth due to the warmer conditions last week was reported throughout the region. The warm, dry weather has helped tree fruit and berries to progress well. In some areas, apples and peaches were in full bloom. In Massachusetts, cranberries reached the early bud stage (green tip). In Maine, mummy berry cups and pinheads were being reported in some blueberry growing areas; however, no mummy berry infection periods were reported in the last few days at the weather stations in wild blueberry fields. Orchardists remained busy spraying blossoms for fireblight control, mowing orchard floors, and pruning peach trees, blueberry bushes, and raspberry patches. In New Hampshire, asparagus and radishes were being harvested. Lettuce and greens from high tunnels were also being harvested, as well as tomatoes and cukes from heated greenhouses. Other field work this week included harrowing fields, plowing, disking, mowing, and applying herbicides.

Soil Moisture for Week Ending May 10, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
TOPSOIL	7	30	55	8
SUBSOIL	6	13	66	15

Crop Conditions as of May 10, 2015

(in percent)

Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
PASTURE AND RANGE	1	18	50	29	2

Crop Progress as of May 10, 2015

(in percent)

Item	This Week
APPLES: GREEN TIP	100
APPLES: PINK	51
APPLES: FULL BLOOM	18
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: GREEN TIP	91
BLUEBERRIES, TAME: PINK	41
BLUEBERRIES, WILD (ME): GREEN TIP	21
CORN: PLANTED	13
CRANBERRIES (MA): GREEN TIP	15
PEACHES: GREEN TIP	100
PEACHES: PINK	68
PEACHES: FULL BLOOM	37
PEARS: GREEN TIP	100
PEARS: PINK	56
PEARS: FULL BLOOM	27
POTATOES: PLANTED	8
SPRING TILLAGE: SINGLE	45
STRAWBERRIES: GREEN TIP	20
STRAWBERRIES: PINK	6
SWEET CORN: PLANTED	17

For a complete nationwide weekly weather and crop bulletin, please visit www.usda.gov/oce/weather and click on "[Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin.](#)"

May 10, 2015 New England Weekly Weather Summary

		Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2015					
		Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
State	Station	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Maine	Augusta_State_A	83	40	60	+9	0.00	0	4.36	-0.72	17	85	+42	317
	Bangor_Intl_Air	81	35	57	+6	0.00	0	2.39	-2.02	20	61	+27	264
	Bethel	83	36	58	+7	0.00	0	3.88	-1.14	12	56	+21	243
	Bridgton	84	36	58	+9	0.00	0	3.42	-1.78	12	63	+37	267
	Caribou_Municip	81	36	54	+7	0.20	3	2.41	-1.23	18	42	+27	188
	Dover-Foxcroft	82	34	56	+9	0.00	0	2.59	-2.26	19	41	+31	205
	Durham	84	35	56	+6	0.00	0	3.43	-2.44	18	46	+20	254
	East_Surry	82	35	53	+3	0.00	0	3.57	-1.93	19	32	+8	196
	Eustis	79	31	54	+9	0.00	0	2.12	-2.06	15	30	+29	150
	Frenchville	81	37	53	+7	0.46	3	2.48	-1.24	18	29	+24	157
	Harmony	85	35	58	+8	0.00	0	3.31	-1.61	18	63	+39	246
	Houlton	81	35	56	+8	0.19	1	2.83	-1.01	16	49	+34	194
	Livermore_Falls	83	34	57	+9	0.00	0	3.48	-1.87	14	48	+34	232
	Machias	80	31	50	+3	0.00	0	3.05	-3.01	14	20	+11	130
	Millinocket_Wtr	81	32	53	+4	0.00	0	2.90	-1.84	16	25	+4	159
	Moosehead	80	36	56	+11	0.02	1	2.56	-2.05	17	43	+42	191
	Portland_ME	84	42	59	+9	0.00	0	4.98	-0.58	12	98	+72	358
	Rangeley_2NW	76	30	53	+8	0.02	1	2.63	-1.55	17	25	+20	126
	Sanford	85	40	60	+8	0.00	0	3.31	-2.53	7	81	+28	299
	Topsfield_2	82	32	54	+5	0.00	0	3.39	-1.38	16	36	+21	193
	Turner	82	37	59	+7	0.00	0	4.08	-1.29	16	75	+23	291
	Wesley_2W	83	28	54	+7	0.00	0	5.42	+0.45	12	39	+25	217
	West_Rockport	81	38	57	+7	0.00	0	4.01	-2.20	16	49	+32	231
New Hampshire	Berlin_AG	82	35	58	+9	0.01	1	2.80	-1.51	16	60	+34	236
	Bradford_2	83	35	58	+5	0.00	0	2.59	-2.71	10	62	-2	263
	Colebrook	81	30	53	+5	0.12	1	3.33	-0.42	19	33	+14	149
	Concord	87	38	64	+12	0.00	0	2.26	-1.88	11	147	+92	406
	East_Milford	85	44	63	+10	0.00	0	2.82	-2.30	9	123	+55	381
	Epping	86	43	62	+9	0.00	0	3.12	-2.32	12	102	+46	340
	Errol_AP	80	30	56	+10	0.04	1	3.05	-0.76	18	44	+39	179
	Fitzwilliam	83	41	62	+11	0.00	0	2.50	-2.43	11	105	+66	352
	Greenville	83	40	61	+10	0.00	0	2.45	-2.48	6	88	+49	316
	Hancock	83	31	59	+8	0.00	0	2.76	-2.46	15	83	+40	293
	Jefferson	82	40	59	+9	0.00	0	3.56	-0.34	20	71	+30	246
	Keene_AG	86	39	61	+9	0.00	0	1.77	-2.73	10	90	+40	318
	Lakeport_2	84	37	60	+8	0.00	0	2.73	-1.86	8	97	+48	332
	Lebanon	86	35	63	+12	0.00	0	1.74	-2.21	10	129	+85	375
	North_Conway	84	37	59	+8	0.00	0	3.82	-1.60	13	67	+29	263
	Tamworth_4	82	34	56	+8	0.00	0	3.31	-2.33	13	48	+30	228
	Wolfeburro	81	42	61	+9	0.00	0	2.94	-1.65	11	101	+52	336
Vermont	Bennington_AP	87	41	65	+16	0.00	0	2.04	-2.96	12	156	+118	422
	Burlington_Intl	88	42	68	+15	0.00	0	2.64	-1.25	13	179	+117	441
	Corinth	83	36	58	+8	0.04	1	2.36	-1.18	16	63	+22	221
	Island_Pond	85	34	58	+11	0.07	1	3.58	-0.32	18	60	+42	200
	Johnson_2N	85	38	61	+12	0.20	1	2.31	-2.05	17	86	+60	274
	Marlboro_Raws	86	43	62	+14	0.00	0	2.93	-0.77	8	105	+81	327
	Montpelier_AP	84	36	61	+11	0.01	1	2.07	-1.47	17	96	+55	286
	Newport_AG	86	37	61	+9	0.27	1	3.36	-0.67	15	86	+28	255

		Last Week Weather Summary						Accumulation Since April 1, 2015					
		Temperature				Precipitation		Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
State	Station	Hi	Lo	Avg	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
	Rochester	83	39	61	+12	0.00	0	2.93	-2.08	12	88	+52	293
	Rutland_AG	87	36	62	+9	0.00	0	2.26	-1.61	15	90	+16	297
	Springfield_VT	85	37	62	+12	0.00	0	2.24	-3.02	9	117	+79	359
	South_Lincoln	82	35	60	+12	0.01	1	1.25	-4.35	9	80	+61	240
	Sutton	84	34	59	+11	0.12	1	3.87	-0.03	21	67	+49	225
	Walden	80	36	57	+10	0.10	1	3.38	-0.52	18	54	+36	166
	Woodstock	84	37	61	+11	0.00	0	2.95	-1.75	12	93	+54	306
Massachusetts	Amherst	88	40	64	+10	0.00	0	2.25	-2.89	10	132	+63	402
	Barre_Falls_Dam	83	38	61	+11	0.01	1	1.94	-3.23	14	88	+56	318
	Bedford_Hanscom	85	42	64	+10	0.01	1	1.84	-3.39	10	148	+70	430
	Beverly_Ag	82	45	61	+7	0.00	0	1.90	-3.49	12	124	+47	415
	Birch_Hill_Dam	84	40	62	+11	0.00	0	1.79	-3.14	10	99	+67	333
	Boston_Logan_In	84	46	64	+9	0.02	1	2.29	-2.41	11	165	+73	463
	Chatham_AP	72	45	57	+7	0.00	0	1.52	-3.64	13	53	+23	301
	Chicopee_Westov	89	37	65	+11	0.00	0	2.77	-2.37	11	168	+99	451
	Edgartown	78	42	59	+7	0.00	0	1.35	-4.11	13	76	+26	378
	East_Brimfield_	81	42	62	+10	0.01	1	3.55	-1.84	14	108	+56	368
	Fitchburg	86	45	68	+14	0.00	0	2.30	-3.37	11	209	+136	507
	Greenfield	87	41	64	+10	0.00	0	2.10	-3.04	11	123	+54	375
	Hyannis_AP	75	45	59	+7	0.00	0	1.19	-3.67	11	70	+31	348
	Maynard	89	44	65	+11	0.00	0	2.52	-2.71	12	153	+75	429
	New_Bedford	82	38	61	+7	0.00	0	1.94	-3.65	13	118	+43	418
	Newburyport	85	36	60	+7	0.00	0	3.20	-2.44	12	101	+33	349
	North_Adams_Har	88	38	65	+15	0.00	0	2.01	-3.85	12	147	+114	409
	Norwood	85	39	65	+10	0.00	0	1.47	-3.83	10	172	+82	461
	Pittsfield	85	41	64	+13	0.00	0	2.90	-2.51	13	139	+89	394
	Plymouth	82	39	62	+9	0.00	0	1.93	-3.93	13	115	+51	385
	Taunton_4NW	85	42	63	+9	0.00	0	2.61	-2.74	16	139	+64	429
	Westfield_Barne	90	40	67	+15	0.00	0	3.23	-2.45	12	208	+159	505
	West_Otis	85	41	64	+13	0.00	0	2.63	-3.44	10	128	+88	395
	Worcester	82	43	66	+14	0.02	1	2.99	-2.33	15	167	+111	452
	Worthington	85	41	62	+11	0.00	0	2.51	-3.01	15	91	+52	312
Rhode Island	Newport_AP	76	44	59	+6	0.00	0	1.60	-3.90	13	93	+36	373
	Providence	82	43	63	+8	0.00	0	2.51	-2.87	15	169	+70	481
	Westerly-Wester	75	39	58	+5	0.00	0	1.42	-4.08	11	85	+15	359
	Woonsocket	84	41	63	+10	0.00	0	3.50	-2.15	11	148	+71	440
Connecticut	Bridgeport_Siko	79	47	62	+7	0.01	1	2.17	-3.12	12	173	+71	491
	Danbury_AP	84	40	64	+9	0.01	1	1.18	-4.59	9	175	+73	469
	Hartford_Bradle	90	42	68	+12	0.00	0	3.41	-1.85	13	242	+120	548
	Meriden-Meriden	85	39	65	+11	0.00	0	1.77	-4.41	9	181	+102	475
	Norfolk	85	39	63	+12	0.00	0	3.52	-2.55	14	109	+69	337
	Norwich	85	43	64	+8	0.00	0	1.40	-4.58	12	159	+53	460
	Staffordville	84	40	61	+8	0.00	0	3.24	-2.52	12	86	+22	319
	Thomaston_Dam	88	37	64	+11	0.00	0	3.28	-2.41	15	135	+73	409
	West_Thompson_L	85	39	63	+10	0.00	0	3.40	-2.31	15	112	+51	378
	Willimantic	88	39	66	+13	0.00	0	3.51	-2.25	13	185	+121	480

Summary based on NWS data. DFN = Departure From Normal.
Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

CONNECTICUT

ALL CT COUNTIES, Jude Boucher
Looking forward to a little rain.

LITCHFIELD, Richard Meinert
Spring is in the air. Flower petals are falling, pollen counts are sky high, and manure is in the air. Spreading is beginning to catch up as fields dried dramatically this week. Tillage is progressing as soon as the spreaders move on. Some spring seedings of forage went in, forcing corn planting to wait a little longer.

WINDHAM, Dawn S. Pindell
Sunny, 80 degree dry weather this past week. Farmers were spreading manure, harrowing fields, spraying cover crop for no-till, and planting corn. Apples and peaches were in full bloom. Orchardists were spraying blossoms for fireblight control due to heavy fog. Time to start first cutting of hay, but growth is stunted due to dry weather. Excellent weather for brisk Mother's Day sales at greenhouses for flowering plants and vegetable plants.

MAINE

AROOSTOOK, Larry James
A few operations got started last week. Most were waiting for frost to come out of the ground. Periods of showers this weekend will probably delay producers a day or two. Lack of heat has made pastures slow to come back.

CUMBERLAND/YORK, Sandy Truslow
Two days in the 80s really pushed the leaves out and turned the grass green. Bees are out collecting pollen from the dandelion flowers. Peach trees took a hit this winter, with no buds or tree deaths reported. Good weather for tilling and planting. We really could use a good soaking of rain.

FRANKLIN, Gary J. Raymond
It was a great week for tilling, spreading, and field preparation. We do need rain. The grass started growing rapidly this week.

HANCOCK, David Yarborough
Conditions are very dry with high winds preventing fields from being burned. Fields being mowed and pre-emergence herbicides being applied on non-cropping fields. Mummy berry cups and pinheads are still being reported in blueberry growing areas, and most fields have more than 40% of their flower buds at or past the F2 stage. No mummy berry infection periods in the last few days reported at the weather stations in wild blueberry fields. While there has been fog reported in some fields over the last few nights, temperatures have been too low and the fog was not long enough for an infection period to occur. There are likely to be infection periods through much of the blueberry growing areas with the wet weather forecast to be starting on Sunday, May 10th and continuing through Wednesday, May 13th.

PISCATAQUIS/SOMERSET, Elaine S. Moceus
A Red Flag Warning, indicating critical fire danger status was posted for Somerset County. With gusty winds and dry air in the forecast, the National Weather Service had the entire state under a red flag warning since Tuesday of this week. A red flag warning occurs when critical fire danger is evident, with strong winds, low humidity and low temperatures creating potential fire. Temperatures cooler toward the end of the week with higher humidity and rain predicted for the coming weekend should lower the fire danger. Field work including spreading manure continued throughout the week.

SOMERSET, Kathy Hopkins
Scattered thundershowers dropped enough rain to settle the dust. We could use more.

WALDO, Rick Kersbergen
Rain needed! Lots of field work. Manure tillage and corn planting in full gear, but things are very dry.

WASHINGTON, Michael Look
For the first time this spring the weather has been good and the snow is mostly gone. Only once during the past week did the snow force us to leave a field until later.

MASSACHUSETTS

BARNSTABLE, Russell Norton
The conditions for the past week were excellent for working outside. The temperature averaged 60°F, with a high of 79°F and a low of 46°F; soil temperatures averaged 56°F. Recently tilled fields combined with lack of rainfall are excessively dry for planting; irrigation may need to be turned on by many growers.

PLYMOUTH, Carolyn DeMoranville
Cranberry buds have expanded in diameter and some have reached the early bud elongation stage (equivalent of green tip). Conditions have been very dry in the region.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

BELKNAP/MERRIMACK/HILLSBOROUGH, Donna Juneau
Producers have reported that they started planting field corn but are running about two to three weeks behind schedule due to the cold weather conditions early in the season. Temperatures are now normal for this time of year, but soil conditions are very dry due to the lack of precipitation. Some annual spring seeded crops (e.g., peas and beans) are not being planted by producers who have no means to irrigate due to the dry conditions.

BELKNAP/STRAFFORD, Kelly McAdam
Very dry conditions in both counties; light shower Sunday afternoon/evening in Belknap County. Some sweet corn has been planted in Belknap County, covered with row cover.

CARROLL, Olivia Saunders

Winter turned to summer. Unusually hot and dry last week. Major growth on fruit trees. Everyone playing catch-up from late spring. Sunday night rain was much needed.

CHESHIRE, Carl Majewski

Pretty dry out there - widely scattered showers on Sunday was the only rain we've had in the last few weeks. However, this has allowed farms to get field work done. Corn planting has begun, though many farms spreading manure and starting tillage. Hayfields are green, but growth is slower with lack of moisture. Planting on vegetable farms continues. Tree fruit and berries progressing well.

COOS, Steve Turaj

Warming trend; fields drying out allowing farms to get caught up a little on manure, fertilizer top dress.

GRAFTON, Heather Bryant

A week of warm weather allowed some farms to till fields and plant potatoes. Trees and shrubs are starting to leaf out.

GRAFTON, Steven Schmidt

Weather conditions warmed nicely during the day. Evening temperatures dropped down into the 40s. No significant precipitation was received during the week. Some farms are still reporting that the subsoil still has a frost layer at a depth, below the surface. However, warmer daytime temperatures have improved topsoil conditions to allow for harrowing and ground preparations for spring planting. Pastures are looking better. Grass began to respond to the warmer conditions later in the week. Alfalfa does appear to have been significantly damaged by winter kill this past winter.

HILLSBOROUGH, George Hamilton

Fruits: Orchardists made sure bees were in apple orchards. Apples: McIntosh trees are at king bloom to full bloom, looking like a very good bloom overall. Later blooming varieties were at pink to king bloom. Peaches are at full bloom (all of the board from a no bloom to heavy bloom – totally site, winter temperature, and variety specific). Blueberries are at early pink. Blueberries showed some tip winter die-back. Raspberries and Blackberries also showing winter die-back, but is very site specific to amount of damage seen. Cherry bloom overall was a light bloom and some blossoms had damage to blooming flowers. Pruning peach trees, blueberry bushes and raspberry patches. Fertilizing orchards and other fruit plantings. Protective fungicide sprays applied on fruit trees and blueberries. Planting fruit trees, grapes, raspberries, blueberries and strawberries. Field Crops: Farmers are fertilizing hayfields; spreading manure, plowing, disking, fertilizing, planting corn, and applying herbicides. Vegetables: Continue vegetable planting, along with sweet corn and potatoes. Liming, fertilizing, plowing, disking and getting ready plant fields. Harvesting asparagus.

ROCKINGHAM, Nada Haddad

Spraying protective fungicides earlier in the week. Apple and peach trees are in full bloom. Mowing orchard floors. Bees active pollinating. Plowing, disking, and fertilizing fields. Harvesting asparagus and radishes, lettuce and greens from high tunnels; tomatoes and cukes harvested from heated greenhouses. Some fields are dry while other areas are wet. Few days saw temperatures reaching the mid-80s. Several farm stands, greenhouse operations,

and summer open air farmers' markets opened this weekend for Mother's Day. Selling pansies and bedding plants.

SULLIVAN, Kelly Webb

It was a great week for field work in Sullivan County. It felt like summer with temperatures into the 80s. Farmers were moving ahead with field preparations and corn planting. Dry conditions continue, and many farmers are hoping for rain soon. Grass is starting to show more growth. Apples and peaches are beginning to bloom.

RHODE ISLAND

ALL RI COUNTIES, Paul E. Brule

We had a very, very good week last week with very warm weather. I would say the high averaged 75°F during the day, and in the high 50s at night. It was a great week for planting potatoes last week. It will probably be done in another week. More sweet corn is being planted as we speak. The ground is being prepared for other vegetables. If not started planting this week, it will be started any day, such as cold crops. Hay and rye is growing. We will probably start mowing rye within the next 10 days. Right now, with no rain within the last two weeks, we could use a little shower to help the seed come along, but it is not dry.

ALL RI COUNTIES, Heather Faubert

Very dry and hot.

VERMONT

ADDISON, Jeffrey Carter

Primary tillage chisel plow on well-drained soils; light secondary tillage on clay soils for seed bed preparation. Planting corn this week. Spreading manure and fertilizer on hay land and corn fields. Very dry surface soil; many comments from farmers about need for rain. Sunday rain. Pasture and cover crop growth very good finally.

FRANKLIN, Paul Stanley

What a week in Franklin County. Super weather to get things rolling and some rain over the weekend provided a great boost where one could watch the grass grow. Much corn planted and nitrogen on grass fields with exceptional uptake. The nice weather is providing for manure applications being tilled in providing a positive for the environment and stable nitrogen for later use in the corn crop. Flowering fruits and trees are starting to hit full bloom and lots of garden activity well in advance of the traditional Memorial Day activity.

ORLEANS, David Blodgett

We had summer temperatures this past week. Two days made it up into the 90s, with high humidity. The weather is now breaking with a nice steady rain. The temperatures have sunk to the 60s. The rain we have seen yesterday afternoon until now had really pushed the grass to start growing. The ground temperature in most corn fields is high enough to start planting. Farmers are getting the fields ready to plant. No hay harvest has begun this year as well as grazing. Farmers hope to begin corn planting later in the week. With this rain, the grass will get up to grazing height soon so we should see animals out soon.